

### **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Original) A method of treating or delaying the progression or onset of diabetes in a mammal comprising:
  - (a) identifying a mammal with an above-normal blood level of an inflammation marker protein; and
  - (b) administering to the mammal a therapeutically effective amount of an inhibitor of  $\alpha_1$ -antitrypsin.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of identifying includes performing an immunoassay, a Western blot analysis, or a chromatographic separation of a sample of the mammal's blood.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the mammal is a human.
4. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein the method is effective to maintain the human's blood glucose level below 10 mM.
5. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein the method is effective to maintain the human's blood-glucose level between 4 mM and 6 mM.
6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the inflammation marker protein is  $\alpha_1$ -antitrypsin, C-reactive protein, interleukin-6 or a combination thereof.
7. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the inflammation marker protein is  $\alpha_1$ -antitrypsin, the mammal is a human, and the above-normal blood level is greater than 1.3 mg  $\alpha_1$ -antitrypsin / mL blood.
8. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the inhibitor of  $\alpha_1$ -antitrypsin is gemfibrozil or an active derivative thereof.
9. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the mammal is a human, and wherein the therapeutically effective amount of gemfibrozil is about 300 to 1500 mg per day.

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11. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein gemfibrozil is administered daily, and the amount of gemfibrozil is adjusted daily to maintain a normal blood level of  $\alpha_1$ -antitrypsin.

12. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein gemfibrozil is administered once per day.

13. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the inhibitor of  $\alpha_1$ -antitrypsin is lithocholic acid or an active derivative thereof.

14. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the method further comprises the step of:  
(c) co-administering to the mammal an anti-diabetic medicament.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein the anti-diabetic medicament includes insulin.

16. (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein the anti-diabetic medicament comprises an insulin secretagogue, a biguanide, an inhibitor of  $\alpha$ -glucosidase, a thiazolidinedione, or a combination thereof.

17. (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein the anti-diabetic medicament comprises human placental alkaline phosphatase.

18. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the method further comprises the step of:  
(d) administering to the mammal an anti-inflammatory agent.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18 wherein the anti-inflammatory agent is a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug, acetylsalicylic acid, ibuprofen, or an active derivative thereof.

20. (Original) The method of claim 18 wherein the anti-inflammatory agent is a cyclooxygenase-2 inhibitor.

21. (Original) A method of enhancing or restoring the sensitivity of a mammal to the metabolic actions of insulin comprising:

(a) identifying a mammal with an above-normal blood level of an inflammation marker protein; and

(b) administering to the mammal an inhibitor of  $\alpha_1$ -antitrypsin sufficient to enhance or restore the sensitivity of the mammal to the metabolic actions of insulin.

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